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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
EVELYN ALVAREZ, individually and on behalf of all others
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

**COLLECTIVE ACTION
COMPLAINT**

-against-

JURY TRIAL
DEMANDED

DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC., and MARINA
PALMA, SULMA MUSA, and MARIA GALBIS, as individuals,

Defendants.

-----X

1. Plaintiff, **EVELYN ALVAREZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated**, (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), by her attorneys at Helen F. Dalton & Associates, P.C., alleges, upon personal knowledge as to herself and upon information and belief as to other matters, as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

2. Plaintiff, **EVELYN ALVAREZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated**, through undersigned counsel, brings this action against **DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC., and MARINA PALMA, SULMA MUSA, and MARIA GALBIS, as individuals**, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants"), to recover damages for egregious violations of state and federal wage and hour laws arising out of Plaintiff's employment at DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC. located at 93-16B 37th Avenue Jackson Heights, New York 11372.
3. As a result of the violations of Federal and New York State labor laws delineated below, Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount

exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiff also seeks interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiff's federal claims pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §216 and 28 U.S.C. §1331.
5. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367.
6. Venue is proper in the EASTERN District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district.
7. This Court is empowered to issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§2201 & 2202.

THE PARTIES

8. Plaintiff EVELYN ALVAREZ residing at 24-48 90th Place East Elmhursts, New York 11369, was employed from in or around January 2019 until in or around November 2019 by Defendants at DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.
9. Defendant, DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC. is a corporation organized under the laws of New York.
10. Defendant, DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC. is a corporation authorized to do business under the laws of New York.
11. Upon information and belief, Defendant, DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC. is a corporation organized under the laws of New York with a principal executive office at 93-16B 37th Avenue Jackson Heights, New York 11372.
12. Upon information and belief, Defendant MARINA PALMA owns and operates DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.,
13. Upon information and belief, Defendant MARINA PALMA is an agent of DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.,
14. Upon information and belief, Defendant MARINA PALMA has power over personnel decisions at DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.,

15. Upon information and belief, Defendant MARINA PALMA has power over payroll decisions at DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.,
16. Defendant MARINA PALMA has the power to hire and fire employees at DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC., establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintains their employment records.
17. Upon information and belief, Defendant SULMA MUSA owns and/or operates DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.,
18. Upon information and belief, Defendant SULMA MUSA is an agent of DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.,
19. Upon information and belief, Defendant SULMA MUSA has power over personnel decisions at DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.,
20. Upon information and belief, Defendant SULMA MUSA has power over payroll decisions at DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.,
21. Defendant SULMA MUSA has the power to hire and fire employees at DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC., establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintains their employment records.
22. Upon information and belief, Defendant MARIA GALBIS owns and/or operates DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.,
23. Upon information and belief, Defendant MARIA GALBIS is an agent of DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.,
24. Upon information and belief, Defendant MARIA GALBIS has power over personnel decisions at DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.,
25. Upon information and belief, Defendant MARIA GALBIS has power over payroll decisions at DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.,
26. Defendant MARIA GALBIS has the power to hire and fire employees at DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC., establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintains their employment records.
27. During all relevant times herein, Defendant MARINA PALMA was Plaintiff's employer within the meaning of the FLSA and NYLL.
28. During all relevant times herein, Defendant MARIA GALBIS was Plaintiff's employer within the meaning of the FLSA and NYLL.

29. On information and belief, DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC. is, at present and has been at all times relevant to the allegation in the complaint, an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce within the meaning of the FLSA in that the entity (i) has had employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, and handle, sell or otherwise work on goods or material that have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person: and (ii) has had an annual gross volume of sales of not less than \$500,000.00.
30. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were and are enterprises as defined in Sec. 3(r) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(r).
31. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were Plaintiff's employers as defined by 29 U.S.C. § 203(d) and NYLL §§ 2(6), 190(3) and 651(6), and Defendants employed Plaintiff.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

32. Plaintiff EVELYN ALVAREZ was employed from in or around January 2019 until in or around November 2019 by Defendants at DELICIAS TROPICAL RESTAURANT INC.
33. During Plaintiff EVELYN ALVAREZ'S employment by Defendants, Plaintiff's primary duties were waitressing, while performing other miscellaneous duties from in or around January 2019 until in or around November 2019.
34. Plaintiff EVELYN ALVAREZ was paid by Defendants approximately \$50.00 per day from in or around January 2019 until in or around November 2019.
35. Plaintiff worked approximately sixty-six (66) hours or more per week during her employment by Defendants from in or around January 2019 until in or around November 2019.
36. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff EVELYN ALVAREZ the legally prescribed minimum wage for her hours worked from in or around January 2019 until in or around November 2019, a blatant violation of the minimum wage provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
37. Although Plaintiff EVELYN ALVAREZ worked approximately sixty-six (66) hours or more per week during her employment by Defendants from in or around January

2019 until in or around November 2019, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff time and a half (1.5) for hours worked over forty (40), a blatant violation of the overtime provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.

38. Furthermore, Plaintiff EVELYN ALVAREZ worked approximately eleven (11) or more hours per day, six (6) days a week from in or around January 2019 until in or around November 2019, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff an extra hour at the legally prescribed minimum wage for each day worked over ten (10) hours, a blatant violation of the spread of hours provisions contained in the NYLL.
39. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to post notices of the minimum wage and overtime wage requirements in a conspicuous place at the location of their employment as required by both the NYLL and the FLSA.
40. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to keep payroll records as required by both NYLL and the FLSA.
41. As a result of these violations of Federal and New York State labor laws, Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiff also seeks interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

42. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and other employees similarly situated as authorized under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). The employees similarly situated are the collective class.
43. Collective Class: All persons who are or have been employed by the Defendants as employees who were responsible for waitressing, or other similarly titled personnel with substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, who were performing the same sort of functions for Defendants, other than the executive and management positions, who have been subject to Defendants' common practices, policies, programs, procedures, protocols and plans including willfully failing and refusing to pay required overtime wage compensation and proper minimum wage compensation.
44. Upon information and belief, Defendants employed between 25 and 35 employees within the past three years subjected to similar payment structures.

45. Upon information and belief, Defendants suffered and permitted Plaintiff and the Collective Class to work more than forty hours per week without appropriate overtime compensation or proper minimum wage compensation.
46. Defendants' unlawful conduct has been widespread, repeated, and consistent.
47. Upon information and belief, Defendant had knowledge that Plaintiffs and the Collective Class performed work requiring overtime pay and proper minimum wage compensation.
48. Defendants' conduct as set forth in this Complaint, was willful and in bad faith, and has caused significant damages to Plaintiff and the Collective Class.
49. Defendants are liable under the FLSA for failing to properly compensate Plaintiff and the Collective Class, and as such, notice should be sent to the Collective Class. There are numerous similarly situated current and former employees of Defendants who have been denied overtime pay in violation of the FLSA and NYLL, who would benefit from the issuance of a Court-supervised notice of the present lawsuit, and the opportunity to join the present lawsuit. Those similarly situated employees are known to Defendants and are readily identifiable through Defendants' records.
50. The questions of law and fact common to the putative class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members.
51. The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the putative class.
52. Plaintiff and his counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the putative class.
53. A collective action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under The Fair Labor Standards Act

54. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
55. Plaintiff has consented in writing to be a party to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

56. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
57. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
58. Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage, to which Plaintiff was entitled under 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) in violation of 29 U.S.C. §207(a)(1).
59. Defendants' violations of the FLSA as described in this Complaint have been willful and intentional. Defendants have not made a good effort to comply with the FLSA with respect to the compensation of the Plaintiff.
60. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants their unpaid wages and an equal amount in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys fees and costs of the action, including interest, pursuant to the FLSA, specifically 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under New York Labor Law

61. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
62. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the meaning of New York Labor Law §§2 and 651.
63. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage to which Plaintiffs were entitled under New York Labor Law §652, in violation of 12 N.Y.C.R.R. 137-1.3.
64. Due to Defendants' New York Labor Law violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants their unpaid overtime wages and an amount equal to their unpaid overtime wages in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys'

fees and costs of the action, including interest in accordance with NY Labor Law §198(1-a).

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Minimum Wages Under The Fair Labor Standards Act

65. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
66. Plaintiff has consented in writing to be a party to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).
67. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was engaged in commerce or the production of services and goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
68. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
69. Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiff a minimum wage in accordance with 29 U.S.C. §§201, 202 and 203.
70. Defendants' violations of the FLSA, as described in this Complaint have been willful and intentional.
71. Defendants have not made a good faith effort to comply with the FLSA with respect to the Plaintiffs' compensation.
72. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants her unpaid minimum wages and an equal amount in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action including interest, pursuant to the FLSA, specifically 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Minimum Wages Under New York Labor Law

73. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

74. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the meaning of NYLL §§2 and 651.
75. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers within the meaning of NYLL.
76. Defendants failed to record, credit or compensate Plaintiff the applicable minimum hourly wage, in violation of the New York Minimum Wage Act, specifically NYLL §652.
77. Defendants also failed to pay Plaintiff the required minimum wage, which Plaintiff were entitled under NYLL §652, in violation of 12 N. Y. C. R. R. 137-1.3.
78. Due to Defendants' NYLL violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants her unpaid minimum wages and an amount equal to their unpaid minimum wages in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action, including interest in accordance with NYLL §198 (1-a).

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Spread of Hours Compensation Under New York Labor Law

79. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
80. Defendants willfully violated Plaintiff's rights by failing to pay Plaintiff an additional hour of pay at minimum wage for each day worked more than ten (10) hours, in violation of the New York Minimum Wage Act and its implementing regulations. N.Y. Labor Law §§ 650 et seq.; 12 N.Y. C. R. R. § 142-2.4
81. Due to Defendants' New York Labor Law violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants her unpaid spread of hour compensation, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of the action, pursuant to N. Y. Labor Law § 663 (1).

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Notice and Recordkeeping Requirements of the New York Labor Law

82. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

83. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with a written notice, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiffs' primary language), of his rate of pay, regular pay day, and such other information as required by NYLL §195(1).

84. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff in the amount of \$5,000.00 per Plaintiff, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Wage Statement Requirements of the New York Labor Law

85. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

86. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with wage statements upon each payment of wages, as required by NYLL §195(3)

87. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff in the amount of \$5,000.00 per Plaintiff, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request that judgment be granted:

- a. Declaring Defendants' conduct complained herein to be in violation of the Plaintiffs' rights under the FLSA, the New York Labor Law, and its regulations;
- b. Awarding Plaintiff unpaid overtime wages;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff unpaid minimum wages;
- d. Awarding Plaintiff unpaid spread of hours compensation;
- e. Awarding Plaintiff liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216 and New York Labor Law §§198(1-a), 663(1);
- f. Awarding Plaintiff prejudgment and post-judgment interest;
- g. Awarding Plaintiff the costs of this action together with reasonable attorneys' fees; and
- h. Awarding such and further relief as this court deems necessary and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all questions of fact raised by the complaint.

Dated: This 17th day of July 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roman Avshalumov', written over a horizontal line.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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-against-

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MARIA GALBIS, as individuals,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

HELEN F. DALTON & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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TO:

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MARINA PALMA

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SULMA MUSA

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MARIA GALBIS

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